

**Congressman Chaka Fattah** is a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee. This committee is responsible for setting spending priorities of over \$1 trillion in annual discretionary funds.

Congressman Fattah has been a lifelong advocate for children and working families, and to date more than 25 million individuals have benefitted from Fattah programs and initiatives, including GEAR UP, the American Opportunity Tax Credit, youth mentoring, and STEM education programs.

Fattah is Ranking Member (senior Democrat) on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS). The CJS Subcommittee oversees close to \$51 billion in discretionary spending for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, NASA and the National Science Foundation. Its oversight and funding responsibilities include the FBI, NOAA/National Weather Service, and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Fattah serves on two additional subcommittees; Energy and Water Development and Military Construction/Veterans Affairs (MilCon).

Fattah is Vice Chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. He also serves as Co-Chair of the Congressional Urban Caucus, House Science and National Labs Caucus, and Job Corps Caucuses.

In the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, Representative Fattah is focused on five legislative priorities:

- Neuroscience and scientific research
- Manufacturing
- Youth Mentoring
- Cooperatives
- GEAR UP

**The Fattah Neuroscience Initiative (FNI)** is an innovative policy initiative that aims to coordinate Federal research across agencies and draw upon public-private partnerships and the world of academia. The initiative promotes research and discovery across brain cognition, development, disease and injury.

Fattah has been the principal sponsor for federal seed money and technical support for **manufacturing innovation**. He continues to work to add more to the \$300 million he has already secured for various programs to expand research and development and grow the manufacturing base through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia and the Advanced Manufacturing initiative.

A Congressional champion for **mentoring**, Fattah has fought for and won millions of dollars for crime fighting programs administered by the Department of Justice that support mentoring for at-risk youth. In the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, Fattah will seek greater collaboration between the federal government and youth mentoring organizations and advocate for funding for programs that employ evidence-based practices.

In 2012, he forged a ground breaking agreement to launch a national mentoring program – the American Innovation and Mentorship Agreement (AIM) in robotics through the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. The agreement will provide robotics-based mentoring programming at 3,000 Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide by 2015.

Congressman Fattah has been working to more than double the national capacity for co-op development and establish the **National Cooperative Development Center** that will: award grants to nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance for groups attempting to form cooperatives, provide guidance and technical assistance to communities seeking to establish cooperatives, create a revolving loan fund to provide seed capital.

The Department of Education is building on the success of **GEAR UP -- Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs** -- with its College Savings Account Research Demonstration Project. Designed to help low-income students and their parents save for college, the test project will allot more than \$8.5 million to establish and fund college savings accounts for 10,000 GEAR UP

students to determine if dedicated savings will increase a student's likelihood of college attendance. The important role GEAR UP has in the new venture is due to Fattah - architect of the program – and his long held belief in the importance of innovative programs and projects designed to ensure students achieve academic success. Fattah understands the economic future of the country rests in the minds of American students many of whom are attending high-poverty middle and high schools.

Congressman Fattah is serving in his 10<sup>th</sup> term in the U. S. House of Representatives. The number one vote-getter in 2012, he won re-election with a whopping 318,176 votes. Pennsylvania's Second District includes parts of Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties. Before his election to the United States Congress in 1994, Fattah served six years as a Representative in the Pennsylvania State House followed by six years as a State Senator.

A father of four, Congressman Fattah is married to Renee Chenault-Fattah.